

Rare Animals of Louisiana



Harlequin Coral Snake

Micrurus fulvius

Rarity Rank: S2/G5

	1	2	3	4	5
State					
Global					
	imperiled		rare		secure



Photo by Jeff Boundy

Identification:

- A small-headed snake with smooth dorsal scales and anal plate divided
- Tip of snout is black and body is red, yellow and black rings (yellow and red come into contact)
- Belly is marked in the same way as the dorsum (back)
- Extremely poisonous

Habitat:

- Primarily occurs in forested areas, though some individuals may be found in other areas such as open pastures
- Eggs are laid mostly underground or under organic matter, loose soil or leaf litter

Food habits:

Mostly snakes and lizards, but also some rodents

Range:

In Louisiana, it is found in the East Florida Parishes

Reproduction:

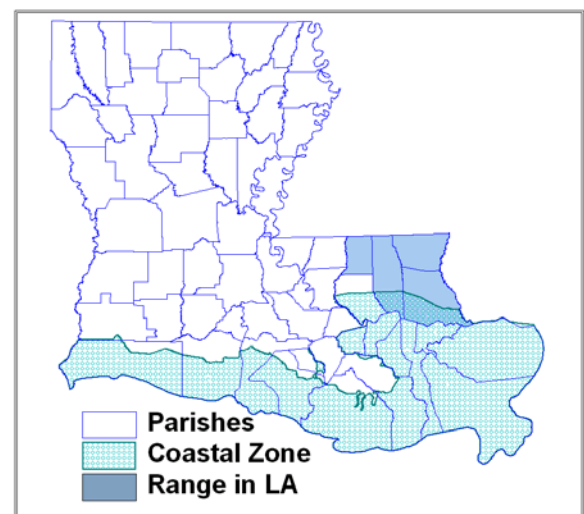
- Lay from five to nine eggs
- Mate in spring and sometimes fall
- Incubation last from 10 to 13 weeks
- Males are sexually mature in 11 to 21 months, females 21 to 27 months

Threats:

- Motorized vehicles cause habitat destruction as well as deaths
- Loss of habitat to development
- Habitat contamination from pollution and pesticides

LA River Basins:

Pearl, Pontchartrain



Range based on occurrences in Natural Heritage database

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References:

Dundee, Harold A., and Douglas A. Rossman. The Amphibians and Reptiles of Louisiana. Louisville: Louisiana State UP, 1996. 176-178.

NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. 2006. Version 6.1 . Arlington, Virginia, USA: NatureServe. Available: <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: June. 19, 2007).